

July 2015



The Admiral's Log
Sons of Confederate Veterans
1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604
Raphael Semmes Camp 11



Dear Compatriots and Friends of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. We hope this edition of the Admiral's Log finds all of you doing well. We could start by fussing about the hot weather; but hey, this is Lower Alabama. Triple digit heat indices and timely afternoon thunderstorms are the norm.

We appreciate Commander Ringhoffer, Compatriots David Toifel, and Larry Muse for attending the flag rally in Montgomery. It was good to see such an outpouring of devotion to our cause by so many people at the rally.

We must also express a hearty thank you to Compatriot Shannon Fontaine for his devotion to flagging the Confederate Monument on the capitol grounds in Montgomery. Our Wetumpka area compatriot has become a regular feature at the monument.

Thanks to Compatriots Mike Riley and David Eubanks for attending the SCV National Reunion in Richmond. You have to appreciate social media. Mike posted a note on Facebook that he was headed home. Then a few hours later I ran across a photo of David with the Mississippi contingent at the reunion. So that confirmed the accuracy of this comment. We are sure they enjoyed the Confederate fellowship.

Last but not least our favorite artilleryist, Compatriot Claude Turberville, fired the opening and closing shot for the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo.

Our July meeting is special. Walter Donald [Donnie] Kennedy and James Ronald [Ron] Kennedy have written several books in support of our Confederate Heritage. The most well-known of their books is "The South Was Right". Donnie has also collaborated Al Benson Jr. to produce "Lincoln's Marxists". Ron is the author of "Reclaiming Liberty". Camp 11 is happy to announce that Ron Kennedy will be our guest speaker at the July meeting. We are excited about having such a distinguished guest on July 27th. We meet in the Dew Drop Inn at 1808 Old Shell Road in Mobile. At 6pm we eat and greet. At 7pm we meet. Come join us for some Confederate fellowship.

Please say your prayers.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Editor, The Admiral's Log

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
29 June 2015

The meeting was called to order and the invocation was given by Chaplain Sid Phillips, III. Commander Joe Ringhoffer led the pledge and salutes. Guests were recognized and notable among them was Brigade Commander Tommy Rhodes.

The program, entitled *Infernal Machines—Land and Naval Mines*—was given by Compatriot Dr. Wayne Sirmon of the University of Mobile. During the Battle for Mobile, the yankees lost more ships than at any other battle during the War of Northern Aggression.

Prior members who were reinstated were recognized.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes' s *Service Afloat*. In that selection, the Admiral predicted that given the direction of the United States eventually constitutional liberty will disappear.

David Mader contributed a very nice painting to the Camp which was purchased before the meeting adjourned.

The Camp approved the selection of Compatriots David Eubanks and Mike Riley as delegates to the National Reunion. Commander Ringhoffer addressed the proposed constitutional amendments scheduled for voting. They included prohibiting HQ from operating as a Camp; reducing the number of members of the Executive Board; changing the disciplinary rules; and changing the parliamentary order.

An announcement was made concerning the rumors that the City of Mobile Council will change the seal of the city removing the recognition of it's heritage.

Brigade Commander Rhodes handed out a significant number of awards to members of the Camp. 1st Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey received the second highest award that the Alabama Division bestows.

Compatriot Kirk Barrett mentioned he has developed a pamphlet about the historical signage at Spanish Fort.

Division Treasurer Larry Muse shared with the Camp the Division's *Flags for Alabama Program*. A discussion followed about erection of a Confederate Battle Flag on the land the Camp owns at the foot of the I-65 bridge on the Mobile County side. Located on the north side of interstate, it is a prime location for a flag. The decision was made by the Camp to do so with the assistance of the *Flags for Alabama program*.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey reported that the Facebook page is doing well. Matilda has been repaired. Living History Program is being held at First Baptist Church of Irvington. He then presented two books to Compatriot Donovan Holyfield who is serving as Chaplain of the Gulf Coast Battalion.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree announced that the 1st National is flying at Confederate Rest and the 3rd National is flying at Ft. McDermott.

Adjutant Bill Rodgers requested that email, address, and telephone changes be sent to him. He also thanked the members of the Camp for their prayers over the last several months.

Paymaster Christmas reported that 50 members have already paid dues for the new year even though they are not payable until August 1. He also has flags for purchase.

Under old business, membership certificates were handed out to those present and in two cases to a family member to take to the new members.

Under new business the following four gentlemen were unanimously approved for membership: Charles Thomas, Michael Travis, Kenneth Ford, III, and Emanuel Blankenship.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer by Chaplin Phillips and the Charge of General Stephen D. Lee was read by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

In light of the Draconian actions by the Mobile City Council in which all flags, except the American flag, were removed from the city seal, Camp 11 issued the following statement. This statement was posted via e-mail and social media. It was well received. We appreciate Memorials and Media Chairman Compatriot Joe DuPree for this statement of our position.

We proclaim our pride and admiration for our American Confederate Veterans who defended our State and fought for the "free and independent States" and "consent of the governed" enunciated in our Declaration of Independence.

We denounce all political or monetary efforts attempting to high-jack or deny the valor, patriotism, and honor of our ancestors.

We decry any attempt to link our heritage or Veterans to any crimes or acts of violence by anyone - individual or governmental - misusing our heritage symbols.

We support the celebration of their heritage by the descendants and beneficiaries of all the various nationalities who - through the centuries - founded, built, and defended our City and State.

Admiral Raphael Semmes

Camp 11, Sons of Confederate Veterans

A Sesquicentennial Moment

Sesquicentennial Moments are becoming few and far between. As the Sesquicentennial of the WBTS continues to wind down we remember the fond memories of the past four years.

July 7, 1865: Four of the Lincoln conspirators are hanged. Lewis Payne, George Atzerodt, David Herold, and Marry Surratt were executed in the Old Penitentiary of Washington, DC. There were considerable protests over the execution of Mary Surratt, who merely kept a boarding house where Booth and his conspirators planned their attack. [Source: "1400 Days The US Civil War Day by Day" by C. Bishop, I. Drury, and T. Gibbons]

WBTS Usage

Cards: small loaves of cornbread, the ends of which were the size of playing cards.

Chit: fractional paper money issued by suttlers and redeemable only by the person or the unit to whom it was issued.

Coffee boiler: A straggler. Also called a coffee cooler, because he was prone to start his duties only after his coffee had cooled. {We have all known a coffee cooler or two.}

Source: "The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage" by Webb Garrison Brigadier

A Confederate Birthday

Brigadier General Daniel Chevilette Govan was born in North Carolina on July 4, 1829. He graduated from South Carolina College in 1848 and went to California in 1849 for the gold rush. His cousin, Benjamin McCulloch, who would also become a Confederate general, traveled with Govan to California. Before returning to Mississippi in 1853 Govan served as the sheriff of Sacramento for two years. By 1861 he had become a planter in Arkansas. At the outbreak of the WBTS, he entered the Confederate Army and was appointed Colonel in command of the 2nd Arkansas Infantry Regiment. He led the 2nd Arkansas in the Battles of Shiloh and was given command of the brigade at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1862. Promoted Brigadier General in 1863, his command consisted of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Arkansas Infantry Regiments, which participated in the Atlanta Campaign. In 1864, he was captured at the Battle of Jonesboro, was prisoner exchanged by Union forces and served the remainder of the war with the Army of Tennessee. After the war, he was a farmer in Arkansas and served as the Indian agent at the Tulalip Agency in Washington State. On March 12, 1911, while visiting one of his children in Memphis, he died. General Govan is at rest in the Hillcrest Cemetery at Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Some Confederate Humor, A Truman Story

President Harry Truman was a member of the SCV. On the eve of the Pacific Surrender Gen.

MacArthur wired President Truman about any last minute instructions. Truman thanked him and then reminded the General to tone down his rhetoric as it was politically incorrect. MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz then requested clarification on "political correctness". Here is the response from President Truman.

"Political Correctness is a doctrine, recently fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and promoted

by a sick mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of s..t by the clean end!"

Musical Tributes to the "Not So Famous" Generals

Music and song have always been a part of Southern life. During the WBTS many tributes to Southern leaders were manifested in songs and ballads about them. We are familiar with some of the more popular ones such as "Stonewall Jackson's Way" and "Jine the Cavalry" which were tributes to Jackson and Stuart. Here are a few of the lesser known tributes to our heroes. In many cases these tributes lasted about as long as their military successes.

Gen. Ben McCullough, a former Texas Ranger, gets his tribute in the "Oak Hill Polka" which is a reference to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

The much disliked Gen. Braxton Bragg gets his tribute with "General Bragg's Grand March" and "The Song of Exile".

Ole Bedford, "The Wizard of the Saddle", is hailed with the "Forrest Polka" and "The Forrest Scottisch". In 1864 a broadside to the tune of "Columbia: The Home of the Brave" listed all of his battles. [A broadside is a single sheet of paper printed on one side and was a common and inexpensive way of printing during the 18th and 19th centuries.]

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson had a grand march in his honor and Gen. Joe Johnston had the "Manassas Quick March". Gen. George Pickett's bad day at Gettysburg is remembered in "Pickett's Charge March".

Gens. Longstreet and Breckinridge had a grand march and South Carolina's Wade Hampton received his due with a "quickstep" and John Winder with a "gallop".

Gens. Leonidas Polk, Franklin Cheatham, and Gideon Pillow are remembered with "The Belmont Quick Step".

"John Bankhead Magruder, better known for his hospitality and leadership with a knife and fork than a military strategist, was recognized with "Magruder's March". A broadside entitled "We'll Be Free in Maryland" makes mention of Magruder, Beauregard, Johnston, Price and Bragg.

Turner Ashby and John Singleton Mosby are in "You Can Never Win Us Back".

Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner received his tribute in "The Kentucky Battle Song".

"The only naval officer to be honored in sheet music was Adm. Raphael Semmes, captain of the Confederate raider, Alabama."

This information comes from "Singing the New Nation" by E. Lawrence Abel. Unfortunately the above comment was all Mr. Abel had to say about our beloved Admiral. So, one has to make the assumption that Mr. Abel was making reference to "Roll, Alabama, Roll". The author of "Roll, Alabama, Roll" is unknown and the tune is that of an English sea chanty. A sea chanty is a maritime work song. One would also surmise that "Roll, Alabama, Roll" did not appear until after August of 1864.

The Brave Invariably Respect the Brave

"Regardless of their musical talents, proud bandsmen were as brave and devoted to the Confederate cause as any man in the Southern army. The dignity especially showed itself just after the Battle of Saylers Creek [6 April 1865] on the eve of Appomattox. As Confederate prisoners were being led off to the rear, one of the Confederate bands, which had also been captured during the fighting, took up their position in the front of the column and struck up "Dixie" one last time. A Federal drummer recalled the effect of the music on the exhausted Confederates: "They were prisoners of war, bleeding from their wounds, faint and famished, ragged and nearly barefoot and their last hope gone, but as the familiar strains of the music floated back over the line their faces brightened, their steps quickened and they marched as they had marched many a time behind their beloved leader, General Lee."

"Our brave men had too much respect for these brave men to jeer at them. The brave invariably respect the brave, and as the soldiers of the "Lost Cause" passed the veterans of the second corps all were silent and respectful, except for an occasional burst of applause which it manifested itself by the clapping of hands."

Source: "Singing the New Nation" by E. Lawrence Abel. Page 194

{If that quote does not make your Confederate heart swell, see a doctor!}

Here is some of the commentary that has appeared over the past month as a result of the attacks on our Heritage by the Cultural Marxists [i.e. political correctness].

"Much to the chagrin of the Left-leaning media, a backlash to the trashing of Confederate symbols is developing, not just in the South but throughout the nation. And media's extremism is actually helping the backlash to grow. An example is a outlandish statement from the magazine, Salon: "... displaying the Confederate flag anywhere is an act of hate. It should be recognized as such, and punished as a hate crime." Yes, you read that correctly - if you display the flag "anywhere" - in your bedroom, in your basement, on your car bumper - you might be charged with committing a hate crime. Totalitarianism has arrived!

I don't think the hyper-emotionalism that motivated the trashing of the Confederate flag can be sustained - it was too mercurial. And those promoting this cultural cleansing should recall the phrase: "Winning the battle and losing the war." The excitement of the victory over the flag will presently fade, but the extreme ill-will generated by news media and black activists won't go away anytime soon." Gail Jarvis; Canada Free Press, 7/14/15

"We will never again be the free people we had hoped to be if we allow ignorant, fearful and hateful people to purge our history and control our culture." R. E. Smith, Jr. in "Fear, Hate, and the Loss of Freedom" posted by the Abbeville Institute on 7/17/15.

"The War of 1861 brutally established that states could not secede. We are still living with its effects. Because states cannot secede, the federal government can run roughshod over the U.S. Constitution's limitations of the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. States have little or no response." Walter E. Williams in "Historical Ignorance" published on 7/14/15

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.
<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

**Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee
Commander-General
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, 25 April 1906**